

My name is Ron Kolesar. I am a blind consumer and a blind Amateur radio operator with a emergency communicators license as well.

We have cell phones in this day and age with both voice input and voice output.

Why can we not have Hand held transceivers better known as HT's and every day off the shelf electronic products or simply off the shelf products with voice output as well?

It's nice that the HT's do have a telephone like keypad on the front of the ht.

But if you hold down on a button just a second to long, you leave from where you knew where you were at.

All that we from a blind consumer's point of view ask is this.

Make the off the shelf products. no matter what that product might be, equally accessible so that blind consumers can also access and enjoy the same product and it's features of a product that the sighted consumer can access with their eyes that they take for granted.

The best way to do this is this.

Take a look at something.

Then close your eyes. Ask yourself this question.

I just saw the operation panel with my eyes open. Now how can I make this accessible for my blind customers/blind consumers, who has to see through their other four senses instead of their eyeballs like a sighted consumer can?! So that they too may use it on a equal level like our sighted customers?

Offer Braille copies of the owners manual, also offer Braille overlays to electronic panels for like microwave ovens and the like.

Make remote controls with voice output.

Why is it that products now days are heat sensitive printed circuit and have no physical buttons that we can feel and or press?

Also make and offer a Braille overlay for washing machines and clothing dryers as well.

For products like microwave ovens for a great example.

Why can't you have physical buttons that we can press instead of constantly selling microwave ovens with flat panel displays?? For electronic off of the shelf products, why can't we have voice output confirmation? So when we do press a button on a product, like our sighted friends, we too would have automatic correct conformational feedback that we did press the correct button for the feature that we wanted at that given time.

think about offering a voice input feature to make that off the shelf blind friendly as well.

At this time, the FCC gave the green light to a single company called wouxun.

I think their web page is

[www.wouxun.com](http://www.wouxun.com)

At this time they do have a HT with voice output so a blind operator can finally program a ht in the field on the fly like their fellow ham operators are doing with their eyes that they take for granted.

But the sad news is that I think it's still in the testing stage.

So these are my comments from a blind consumer.

I hope to have a equal platform as my sighted friends have at their fingertips already that they take for

granted with their physical eyes.

Please let me know what I can do to help make these comments actual facts.

Ron Kolesar

Like the sighted, we too have a brain and take in the same info in the same way the sighted consumer processes the info.

It's just that if it's electronic, we read with our ears. If it is in ink print, we read with our fingertips.

Also, I'd like to add the following comments.

Since roughly about starting in 2000, on the shopping channels companies have been manufacturing a magical light up musical keyboard.

If you have enough vision to see the lights, it truly will do what they advertise the product to do.

It will take you through a song and teach you how to play that favorite song you'd like to play by just following the lights.

They say that the lights help you to remember the correct patterns to play within that song. What is also nice with these products is as follows:

If you play a wrong note, the light will either flash over the correct note you should have played or stay on solid over the correct note that you should have played. I don't remember which it will do.

Now what I have been trying to do is this.

I would like to see some type of magical sound and or magical vibration musical keyboards.

You would think in this day and age with all of the technology that is at our fingertips that we could create a product that would give us the blind the same info that the lights are giving to the sighted music student.

But no one wants to adapt their portable musical keyboards so that a blind person also may enjoy music. Be it in school or in their private home.

No I love the piano, I took about eight years of lessons.

I get pretty much everything by ear.

But what I can not pick up by ear is to tell what notes are being played nor can I tell by ear what chords are being played with those notes.

I would like to see a musical keyboard with a MIDI feature for future downloads of music for when we're ready for the advanced pieces of music like the sighted have at their fingertips.

I have tried the Braille Music code.

1. the Braille music code is not like the normal Braille normal reading code. It is tricky and it is slow.

2. If you have your hands on the keyboard, you can't have your hands on your music to try and read it for some strange reason. SMILES.

Also, if you're attempting to read the Braille music, you once again for some some of the same strange reason can't have your hands on the keyboard for some strange reason. SMILES.

The sighted have their music in front of them while they're playing. We have to attempt to memorize our music and hopefully play the entire piece without making a mistake and making a fool of

ourselves.

I have played for our church and for our church at Christmas time.

Everyone who has heard me play wants me to play more often and different pieces.

they don't realize how difficult it is just to memorize that little hymn and or Christmas carol.

I would love to take up the piano once again.

At this time the best piano course out there for the blind student is the Bill Brown play by ear course.

But his biggest drawback is that he only has so few courses to choose from.

This is why I ask for an adaptive musical keyboard for we too can take advantage of with a midi feature in the keyboard.

Mr. Brown's style of teaching is as follows:

1. he plays the entire song that you want to learn to play.
2. He then plays just the small section that you are working on.
3. Most importantly for me Mr. Brown will then tell you the correct notes to be played and the fingering and in which octave to be played in with their correct chords to also be played.
4. He then plays those notes to show you what they sound like if played correctly and if not played correctly.

So there you have it.

I say once again. The only way the sighted is going to know the needs of the blind is to ask or if they don't know which questions to ask, to listen to us speak. Who would know our needs the best then ourselves.

So if I can help out?

The phone number here in Pennsylvania is 814-774-5709.

Many Thanks.

Mr. Ronald C. Kolesar U.S. Ham Radio call Sign KR3DOG

Who like most just wants the same equal access to off the shelf technology that the sighted have with their eye balls that they take for granted.

Close your eyes and see if you can use that same product that you just used with your eyes opened.

Ron Kolesar

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